

VENABLE
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

March 16, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attention: Box PCT - DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)

FORM PTO-1390 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (REV 5-93)		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371		32066-152531
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/CH99/00318	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE July 13, 1999	U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)
PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED July 16, 1998		
TITLE OF INVENTION - see attached pages -		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US - see attached pages -		
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:		
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.		
2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.		
3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(i).		

- See attached pages for additional data -



March 16, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attention: PCT-DO/US

Attorney Docket No. 32066-152531

Re: INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PCT/ CH99/ 00318 filed July 13, 1999

Priority Claimed: Swiss Applications 1511/98 and 1512/98 filed July 16, 1998

Inventors: Hans REICHL

Title: CONTACT ASSEMBLY FOR MULTIPLE CONNECTION STRAP FOR CABLE
TERMINALS, AS WELL AS MULTIPLE CONNECTION STRIP

Submitted herewith, as the **first submission**, are the following for the purposes of entering the national stage for the USA under 35 U.S.C. 371(c), **immediate national examination under 35 U.S.C. 371(f) being requested.**

- International Application.
- Translation of International Application.
- Inventor Declaration.
- Formal drawings (2 sheets, Figs. 1-8).
- Verified Statements Claiming Small Entity Status - Independent Inventor and Small Business Concern.
- Preliminary Amendment to eliminate multiple dependency of claims.
- Assignment with cover sheet.
- International Search Report issued by the European Patent Office.

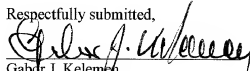
[X] Official Fees [X] Basic filing fee.....\$420.00
Recording fee..... 40.00
TOTAL FEES.....\$460.00

Charge any additionally required fees or credit any overpayment to our Account No. 22-0261.

Please address all communications to:

VENABLE, BAETJER, HOWARD and
CIVILETTI, LLP
P.O. Box 34385
Washington, D.C. 20043-9998

Respectfully submitted,



Gabor J. Kelemen
(Registration No. 21,016)

GJK:df

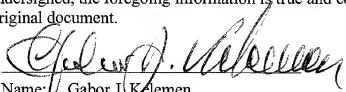


TO THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONER OF
PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Attorney Reference:
32066-152531

REQUEST FOR RECORDING AND COVER SHEET UNDER 37 C.F.R. 3.28 AND 3.31

Please record the attached original document(s) or copy(ies) thereof.

1. Name of party conveying the interest:
Hans REICHLE
2. Name and address of party receiving the interest:
REICHLE & DE-MASSARI AG
Binzstrasse 31
CH-8620 Wetzikon, Switzerland
3. Description of the interest conveyed or transaction to be recorded:
☒ [X] Assignment ☐ [] Other:
4. Application Number: PCT/CH99/00318
Patent Number:
Registration Number:
☐ [] Document filed together with a patent application executed on _____
5. Address correspondence concerning this request to: VENABLE, BAETJER, HOWARD & CIVILETTI, LLP, P.O. Box 34385, Washington, D.C. 20043-9998.
6. Number of Applications, Patents or Registrations and total fee:
Patents: 1 patent rights @ \$40 Total: \$40.00
-or-
Trademarks: First trademark right @ \$40
 additional trademark rights @ \$25 \$ Total: \$
If no fee is attached, or if a greater or lesser fee is required, please charge or credit out Account No. 22-0261.
7. Date of execution of document: February 1, 2000
8. If document is an assignment of a trademark right to an assignee who is not domiciled in the United States, such assignee has designated a domestic representative
☐ [] per attached designation ☐ [] other:
9. To the best of knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.
10. Date: March 16, 2000

Name: Gabor J. Kelemen
Registration Number: 21,016

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of

Applicant : Hans REICHLE)
Application No. : PCT/CH99/00318) PRELIMINARY
Filed : July 13, 1999) AMENDMENT
Natl. Stage Entry: Concurrently)
For : CONTACT ASSEMBLY FOR MULTIPLE)
CONNECTION STRAP FOR CABLE)
TERMINALS, AS WELL AS MULTIPLE)
CONNECTION STRIP)
Attorney Docket : 32066-152531)
March 16, 2000
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attention: PCT-DO/US

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 9,

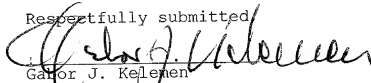
Line 1, change "claims 6 to" to --claim 6--.

Line 2, delete "8".

REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to eliminate the multiple dependency of claim 9.

Respectfully submitted



Gabor J. Kelenen
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98123/19

2/pets.

Reichle & De Massari AG

Wetzikon/Switzerland

Contact Assembly for Multiple Connection Strap for
Cable Terminals, as well as Multiple Connection Strip

This invention relates to a contact assembly for insertion into lengthwise spaced open chambers of a multiple connection strap for cable terminals, in particular a distributor of telephone and data lines.

Previous contact assemblies were designed for placement into open casing parts of the strap during the manufacture of finished connection straps, after which the casing was completed with additional parts.

Their unsuitable configurations make the known contact assemblies unusable for insertion into lengthwise spaced open chambers of a multiple connection strap, which hence requires assembly on one side from outside.

Therefore, the object of this invention is to provide a contact assembly that enables assembly on one side from outside.

This is achieved according to the invention first by virtue of the fact that the contact assembly encompasses at least two spaced tongues with contact springs, wherein the longitudinal edges of the tongues are intended for insertion and positive meshing in guide grooves of one of the chambers of a multiple connection strap; that the tongues exhibit wire connecting means at the free end, preferably insulation-piercing connecting devices, and are connected at the inner end by a web; and that at least the wire connecting means, contact springs and web sequentially arranged, in at least an approximately flush manner, between the longitudinal edges of the tongues.

The web is here preferably of limited width and separable.

This makes it possible for the contact assembly to be a through contact transformable into an isolating contact by separating the web, or into a switching contact by inserting an isolating piece or via molding.

To protect the highly sensitive contact points in these contact assemblies against contamination and/or damage during manipulations, like testing, separating, etc., the invention provides for arranging the contact points laterally inclined, so that only the edges of the contact points are touched when inserting a plug connector.

A contact assembly according to this invention now makes it possible to assemble a connection strap from one side on the outside. In turn, this results in the task of developing a corresponding connection strap that can then only be assembled with a single embodiment of a contact assembly according to the invention, but can still be used as the through strap, or separation strap or switching strap.

Such a multiple connection strap with lengthwise spaced open chambers for the insertion of one contact assembly each, for cable terminals, in particular a distributor of telephone and data lines, is initially characterized according to the invention by the fact that its casing now consists of a one-piece plastic body.

Preferably, the chambers exhibit lateral guide grooves for the form-fitting accommodation of the longitudinal edges of at least two spaced tongues on the contact assembly, wherein the tongues carry contact springs, and exhibit wire connecting means, preferably insulation-piercing connecting devices, at the free end, and are connected on the inside end by a web, and wherein at least the wire connecting means, the contact springs and the web are located one in back of the other in the assembly direction, in at least an approximately flush manner, between the longitudinal edges of the tongues.

The universality of the connection strap according to the invention is increased by virtue of the fact that the chambers exhibit a hole for temporarily holding a separating tool in the area of the preferably separable web that connects the tongs of a contact assembly on the inner end.

In addition, it is advantageous for the chambers in the area of the contact areas of a contact assembly to exhibit guiding means for incorporating an isolating and separating piece.

In this case, the connection strap can be a through strap or separating strap or a switching strap, by virtue of the fact that the contact assemblies are through contacts that can be transformed into separating contacts by separating the web, or into switching contacts by inserting an isolating and separating piece or via molding.

These measures now make it possible to assemble the one-piece distributor straps on the front side with uniform contact assemblies, whose distributor straps then can, depending on designation, be left as connecting straps, or transformed into separating straps by separating the webs, or into switching straps by inserting an isolating piece or via molding.

This results in an extremely cost-effective production and storage.

Embodiments of the subject matter of the invention will be described in greater detail below based on the drawing. Shown on:

Fig. 1 is a graphic depiction of a one-piece multiple-connection strap with upstream contact assembly in the assembly direction;

Fig. 2 is a sectional graphic depiction of the multiple-connection strap according to Fig. 1 on an enlarged scale, with contact assembly inserted;

Fig. 3 is a graphic depiction of a contact assembly according to the invention;

Fig. 4 to 6 is a side view of the contact assembly according to Fig. 3 as a through contact, separating contact or switching contact; and

Fig. 7 and 8 is top view on an enlarged scale of the contact point of the contact assembly according to Fig. 3 in varying functions.

The multiple-connection strap according to the invention in Fig. 1 and 2 is intended for cable terminals, in particular a distributor of telephone and data lines, with a casing 1 made out of plastic, which accommodates numerous contact assemblies 3 spaced apart lengthwise.

According to the invention, the plastic casing 1 is designed as a single piece, and encompasses numerous

longitudinally spaced apart open chambers 2 for the insertion of one contact assembly 3 each.

The chambers 2 here exhibit lateral, here parallel guide grooves 9 (Fig. 2) for the insertable, form-fitting accommodation of at least two spaced apart, here parallel tongues 4 at the contact assembly 3.

In addition, the chambers 2 exhibit a hole in the area of a separable web 6 that connects the tongues 4 of a contact assembly 3 at the inner end for the temporary accommodation of a separating tool (not shown).

In addition, the chambers 2 exhibit guide means (not shown) in the area of contact points 8 of a contact assembly 3 for accommodating an isolating and separating piece (Fig. 6).

To be able to use a contact assembly in such a chamber 2 in an aligned and torsion-resistant manner, each contact assembly 3 in Fig. 3 according to the invention encompasses at least two spaced apart, here parallel tongues 4, with contact springs 7 exhibiting contact points 8, wherein the longitudinal edges of the tongues are intended for the insertable, positive meshing in

guide grooves 9 of one of the chambers 2 of the multiple-connection strap 1 (Fig. 2).

The tongues 4 of the contact assembly 3 additionally exhibit wire connecting means at the free end, in particular insulation-piercing connecting devices 5, and are connected at the inner end by at least one, preferably separable web 6.

In this case, at least the wire connecting means 5, the contact springs 7 and the web 6 are sequentially arranged, in an approximately flush manner, between the longitudinal edges of the tongues 4 intended for positive meshing.

According to Fig. 4, 5 and 6, the contact assembly is a through contact that can be transformed into a separating contact by separating the web, or into a switching contact by inserting an isolating piece or via contact molding.

These measures now make it possible to assemble the one-part or one-piece distribution straps on the front side with uniform contact assemblies, wherein these distribution straps can then be transformed into connecting or through strap, separating strap or

switching strap, depending on designation, by having the contact assemblies be through contacts that can be transformed into separating contacts by separating the web, or into switching contacts by inserting an isolating separation piece or via molding.

To protect the highly sensitive contact points 8 against contamination and/or damage for these contact assemblies during manipulations, e.g., tests, separation, etc., Fig. 7 and 8 also envisage arranging the contact points 8 laterally inclined, so that only the edges of the contact points are touched when inserting a plug connector 10 (Fig. 8), but the actual contact surface remains undisturbed. Each contact assembly 3 can also exhibit a parallel tap 11.

When using a contact assembly for solder-free insulation displacement wiring that encompasses an insulation displacement slit and a cutting edge arranged behind the insulation displacement slit spaced apart at a preset distance, additional lateral guide grooves must be provided in each chamber in order to accommodate the longitudinal edges of the insulation displacement receptacle or tongues with the cutting edge.

CLAIMS

1. Contact assembly for insertion into lengthwise spaced open chambers of a multiple connection strap for cable terminals, in particular a distributor of telephone and data lines, characterized by the fact that

a) contact assembly (3) envelops at least two spaced tongues (4) with contact springs (7), wherein the longitudinal edges of the tongues are intended for the insertable, positive meshing with guide grooves of one of the chambers of a multiple-connection strap;

b) the tongues (4) exhibit wire connecting means at the free end, preferably insulation-piercing connecting devices (5), and are connected on the inner end by a web (6); and

c) at least the wire connecting means (5), the contact springs (7) and the web (6) are arranged sequentially in the assembly direction, in at least an approximately flush manner, between the longitudinal edges of the tongues (4).

2. Contact assembly according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the web (6) is of narrow width and separable.
3. Contact assembly according to claim 2, characterized by the fact that it is a through contact transformable into an isolating contact by separating the web, or into a switching contact by inserting an isolating piece or via molding.
4. Contact assembly according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the contact points (8) are laterally inclined, so that only the edges of the contact points are touched when inserting a plug connector.
5. Multiple-connection strap with lengthwise spaced, open chambers for the insertion of one contact assembly each, for cable terminals, in particular a distributor of telephone and data lines, characterized by the fact that the casing (1) of the connection strap consists of a one-piece plastic body.

6. Multiple-connection strap according to claim 5, characterized by the fact that the chambers (2) exhibit lateral guide grooves (9) for the form-fitting accommodation of the longitudinal edges of at least two spaced tongues (4) on the contact assembly (3), wherein the tongues (4) carry contact springs (7), and exhibit wire connecting means, preferably insulation-piercing connecting devices (5), at the free end, and are connected on the inside end by a web (6), and wherein at least the wire connecting means (5), the contact springs (7) and the web (6) are located one in back of the other in the assembly direction, in at least an approximately flush manner, between the longitudinal edges of the tongues (4).
7. Multiple-connection strap according to claim 6, characterized by the fact that the chambers (2) exhibit a hole in the area of a separable web (6) that connects the tongues (4) of a contact assembly (3) at the inner end for the temporary accommodation of a separating tool.
8. Multiple-connection strap according to claim 6, characterized by the fact that the chambers (2) exhibit guide means for inserting an isolating and

separating piece in the area of the contact points (8) of a contact assembly (3).

9. Multiple-connection strap according to claims 6 to 8, characterized by the fact that it is a through strap or a separating strap or a switching strap, in that the contact assemblies (3) are through contacts that can be transformed into separating contacts by separating the web (6), or into switching contacts by inserting an isolating and separating piece or via molding.

SUMMARY

The contact assembly (3) is used for multiple-connection straps for cable terminals, in particular a distributor of telephone and data lines, wherein the casing of the connection strap exhibits numerous modular, lengthwise spaced and open chambers for the insertion of one contact assembly each. The contact assembly (3) here encompasses two spaced apart tongues (4) with contact springs (7) exhibiting contact points (8), wherein the longitudinal edges of the tongues are intended for the insertable, positive meshing with guide grooves of one of the chambers of a multiple-connection strap. In addition, the tongues (4) exhibit wire connecting means at the free end, preferably insulation-piercing connecting devices (5), and are connected on the inner end by a web (6) with a narrow width. In this case, the contact assembly is a through contact transformable into a separating contact by separating the web, or into a switching contact by inserting an isolating piece or via molding.

This now enables the production of a casing of the connection strap out of a one-piece plastic body, and the assembly on the front side with uniform contact assemblies, which then, depending on designation, be

left as connecting straps, or transformed into separating straps by separating the webs, or into switching straps by inserting an isolating piece or via molding.

(Fig. 1 and 3)

Applicant: Hans Reichle

Attorney's 32066-

Serial No.: PCT/CH99/00318

Docket No.: 152531

Filed: July 13, 1999

For: CONTACT ASSEMBLY FOR MULTIPLE CONNECTION STRAP FOR CABLE TERMINALS, AS

WELL AS MULTIPLE CONNECTION STRIP

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS

(37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(b)) - INDEPENDENT INVENTOR

As below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled CONTACT ASSEMBLY FOR MULTIPLE CONNECTION STRAP FOR CABLE TERMINALS, AS WELL AS MULTIPLE CONNECTION STRIP described in

☐ the specification filed herewith

☒ application serial no. PCT/CH99/00318, filed July 13, 1999.

☐ patent no. _____, issued _____.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

☐ no such person, concern or organization

☒ persons, concerns or organizations listed below*

*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

FULL NAME REICHLE & DE-MASSARI AG

ADDRESS Binzstrasse 31, CH-8620 Wetzikon, Switzerland

☐ INDIVIDUAL ☒ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any changes in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Hans REICHLE

NAME OF INVENTOR

Hans Reichle
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR

Feb 14th, 00
DATE

DC2-DOCS1-175658

Applicant: Hans REICHLE

Attorney's 32066-

Serial No.: PCT/CH99/00318

Docket No.: 152531

Filed : July 13, 1999

For: CONTACT ASSEMBLY FOR MULTIPLE CONNECTION STRAP FOR CABLE TERMINALS, AS

WELL AS MULTIPLE CONNECTION STRIP

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS

(37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(c)) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

I hereby declare that I am

☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below;

☒ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below;

NAME OF CONCERN REICHLE & DE-MASSARI AG

ADDRESS OF CONCERN Binzstrasse 31, CH-8620 Wetzikon, Switzerland

I hereby declare that the above-identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 12 CFR 121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other either directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention, entitled by inventor(s) described in

☐ the specification filed herewith

☒ application serial no. PCT/CH99/00318, filed July 13, 1999.

☐ patent no. _____, issued _____.

If the rights held by the above-identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e). *NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

NAME

ADDRESS

☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING Hans REICHLE

TITLE OF PERSON OTHER THAN OWNER President of Board of Management

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING Guldislooweg 16, CH-8620 Wetzikon, Switzerland

SIGNATURE

DATE

DC2-DOCS1-175662

Hans Reichle Feb 14 00

Fig. 1

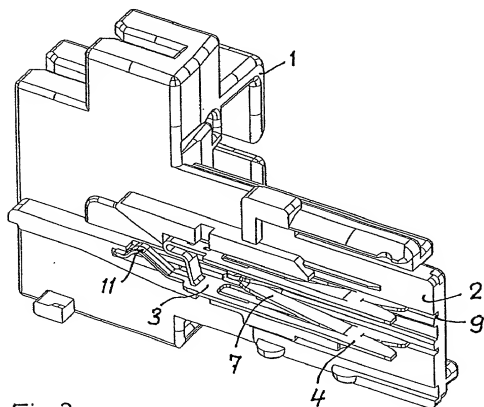
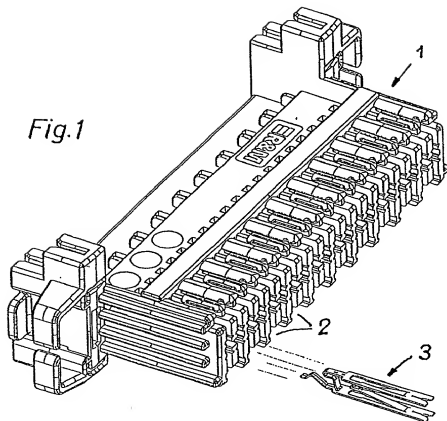


Fig. 2

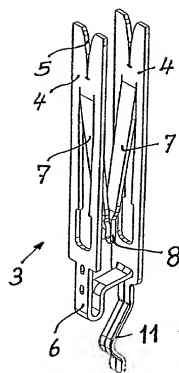


Fig. 3

Fig. 4



Fig. 6

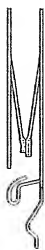


Fig. 5



Fig. 7

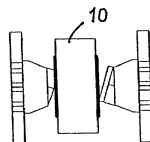
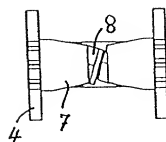


Fig. 8

DECLARATION FOR UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION,
POWER OF ATTORNEY, DESIGNATION OF CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Attorney Docket
32066-152531

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name, and that I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled CONTACT ASSEMBLY FOR MULTIPLE CONNECTION STRAP FOR CABLE TERMINALS, AS WELL AS MULTIPLE CONNECTION STRIP the specification of which

[] is attached hereto.

[] was filed on _____ as Application No. _____
and was amended on _____ [if applicable].

[X] was filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty on July 13, 1999,

Serial No. PCT/CH99/00318, the United States of America being designated.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent, utility model, design or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent, utility model, design or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application(s) on which priority is claimed:

Number	Country	Date Filed	Priority Claimed	
			Yes	No
<u>1511/98</u>	<u>Switzerland</u>	<u>July 16, 1998</u>	<u>X</u>	
<u>1512/98</u>	<u>Switzerland</u>	<u>July 16, 1998</u>	<u>X</u>	

I hereby appoint the following attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: George H. Spencer (Reg. No. 18,038), Norman N. Kunitz (Reg. No. 20,586), Robert J. Frank (Reg. No. 12,112), Gabor J. Kelemen (Reg. No. 21,016), Robert Kinberg (Reg. No. 26,924), John W. Schneller (Reg. No. 26,031), Ashley J. Wells (Reg. No. 29,847), Allen Wood (Reg. No. 28,134), P.O. Box 34385, Washington, D.C. 20043-9998, Telephone: (202) 962-4800, Telefax: (202) 962-8300. Address all correspondence to VENABLE, BAETJER, HOWARD & CIVILETTI, LLP, P.O. Box 34385, Washington, D.C. 20043-9998.

The undersigned hereby authorizes the U.S. attorneys named herein to accept and follow instructions from the undersigned's assignee, if any, and/or, if the undersigned is not a resident of the United States, the undersigned's domestic attorney, patent attorney or patent agent, as to any action to be taken in the Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. attorneys and the undersigned. In the event of a change in the person(s) from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. attorneys named herein will be so notified by the undersigned.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under §1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Signature: Hans Reichle

Date: Feb 14, 2000.

Sole or First Joint Inventor: Hans Reichle

Citizenship: Switzerland

Residence and Post Office Address: Guldslöoweg 16, CH-8620 Wetzikon, Switzerland